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Department of State TELEGRAM

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Saigon 7013
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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 35,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,P 04,INR 07,AID 30,
IO 21,SAL 01,CU 04,RSR 01,NIC 01,/148 W

P 270500Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7650
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4359
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 1016
RMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2618

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE: 12/23/81
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7013

SUBJ: STUDENTS IN CAN THO PROTEST ELECTION OUTCOME

REF : A. SAIGON 6734;
B. SAIGON 6947;
C. SAIGON 7006//

0-&3 2 RUMJIR 7013 C O N F I D E N T I A L

1. CAN THO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CALLED MEETING AT 1500 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25 TO STRESS "STUDENT ATTITUDE ABOUT FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS". ONE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THIS GROUP, ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE VIETNAMESE PRESS. IT CLAIMS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SANZON UNIVERSITY AND VAN HANH (BUDDHIST) UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AN ORGANIZATION NAMED

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"STUDENTS TO STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY".

2. AT ABOUT 1400 ABOUT 50 NATIONAL POLICEMEN APPEARED IN FRONT OF UNIVERSITY WHICH WAS DECKED WITH BANNERS PROCLAIMING AGAINST ELECTIONS AND "AMERICAN AGGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY". ROADS LEADING TO UNIVERSITY WERE BLOCKED WITH BARBED WIRE AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS OF THOSE ENTERING AREA WERE CHECKED. STUDENTS APPARENTLY HAD NOT REPEATNOT PLANNED A DEMONSTRATION NOR REQUESTED A PERMIT TO DO SO. FOR SOME TIME POLICE DID NOT ALLOW STUDENTS TO LEAVE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS OR PEOPLE TO ENTER UNIVERSITY BUILDING.ONLY A FEW STUDENTS APPEARED AT THE SCHEDULED TIME ANDSTUDENTLEADERS COMPLAINED ABOUT POLICE.

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3. POLICE LATER WITHDREW AND ABOUT 100 STUDENTS ATTENDED TWO-HOUR MEETING IN A UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM. STUDENTS LISTENED WITH NO GREAT SHOW OF ENTHUSIASM AS SOME STUDENT LEADERS CONDEMNED ELECTIONS AND GAVE ACCOUNT OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN SAIGON (APPARENTLY SMALL DEMONSTRATION IN SAIGON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 REPORTED REF A).

4. PHONG DINH PROVINCE CHIEF SAYS HE BELIEVES THESE ACTIVITIES ARE IN PREPARATION FOR LARGER-SCALE PROTEST AFTER ELECTIONS ARE VALIDATED. STUDENT LEADERS HAVE PROCLAIMED A "NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP" FOR OCTOBER 1.

5. ACTIVITIES OF CAN THT STUDENTS CLEARLY COORDINATED WITH THOSE OF STUDENT PROTEST GROUPS IN SAIGON AND DANANG (REFS A, B AND C). AS ELSEWHERE, EFFORT TO WHIP UP ENTHUSIASM AMONG STUDENTS AGAINST ELECTION OUTCOME ALTHOUGH WELL ORGANIZED DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE MADE MUCH PROGRESS.

BUNKER

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